

NCHA Financial Feature



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2019 Medicare Parts A & B Premiums and Deductibles

Last week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the 2019 premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance amounts for the Medicare Part A and Part B programs. Below is a more detailed description of the various deductible and copayment amounts.

The standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B enrollees will be \$135.50 for 2019, an increase of \$1.50 from \$134 in 2018. An estimated 2 million Medicare beneficiaries (about 3.5%) will pay less than the full Part B standard monthly premium amount in 2019 due to the statutory hold harmless provision, which limits certain beneficiaries' increase in their Part B premium to be no greater than the increase in their Social Security benefits. The annual deductible for all Medicare Part B beneficiaries is \$185 in 2019, an increase of \$2 from the annual deductible \$183 in 2018.

Premiums and deductibles for Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug plans are unaffected by this announcement. Since 2007, a beneficiary's Part B monthly premium is based on his or her income. These income-related monthly adjustment amounts (IRMAA) affect roughly 5 percent of people with Medicare Part B. The total premiums for high income beneficiaries for 2019 are shown in the following table:

Beneficiaries who file individual tax returns with income:	Beneficiaries who file joint tax returns with income:	Income-related monthly adjustment amount	Total monthly premium amount
Less than or equal to \$85,000	Less than or equal to \$170,000	\$0.00	\$135.50
Greater than \$85,000 and less than or equal to \$107,000	Greater than \$170,000 and less than or equal to \$214,000	\$54.10	\$189.60
Greater than \$107,000 and less than or equal to \$133,500	Greater than \$214,000 and less than or equal to \$267,000	\$135.40	\$270.90
Greater than \$133,500 and less than or equal to \$160,000	Greater than \$267,000 and less than or equal to \$320,000	\$216.70	\$352.20
Greater than \$160,000 and less than \$500,000	Greater than \$320,000 and less than \$750,000	\$297.90	\$433.40
Greater than or equal to \$500,000	Greater than or equal to \$750,000	\$325.00	\$460.50

Premiums for high-income beneficiaries who are married and lived with their spouse at any time during the taxable year, but file a separate return, are as follows:

Beneficiaries who are married and lived with their spouses at any time during the year, but who file separate tax returns from their spouses:	Income-related monthly adjustment amount	Total monthly premium amount
Less than or equal to \$85,000	\$0.00	\$135.50
Greater than \$85,000 and less than \$415,000	\$297.90	\$433.40
Greater than or equal to \$415,000	\$325.00	\$460.50

The Medicare Part A inpatient hospital deductible that beneficiaries will pay when admitted to the hospital will be \$1,364 in 2019, an increase of \$24 from \$1,340 in 2018.

The Part A inpatient hospital deductible covers beneficiaries' share of costs for the first 60 days of Medicare-covered inpatient hospital care in a benefit period. In 2019, beneficiaries must pay a coinsurance amount of \$341 per day for the 61st through 90th day of a hospitalization (\$335 in 2018) in a benefit period and \$682 per day for lifetime reserve days (\$670 in 2018).

For beneficiaries in skilled nursing facilities, the daily coinsurance for days 21 through 100 of extended care services in a benefit period will be \$170.50 in 2019 (\$167.50 in 2018).

Enrollees age 65 and over who have fewer than 40 quarters of coverage and certain persons with disabilities pay a monthly premium in order to voluntarily enroll in Medicare Part A. Individuals who had at least 30 quarters of coverage or were married to someone with at least 30 quarters of coverage may buy into Part A at a reduced monthly premium rate, which will be \$240 in 2019, an \$8 increase from 2018. Certain uninsured aged individuals who have less than 30 quarters of coverage and certain individuals with disabilities who have exhausted other entitlement will pay the full premium, which will be \$437 a month, a \$15 increase from 2018.

Our Washington liaison, Larry Goldberg of Larry Goldberg Consulting, provided us with this summary. Please contact Jeff Weegar, NCHA, at 919-677-4231, jweegar@ncha.org or Ronnie Cook, NCHA, at 919-4225, rcook@ncha.org if you have questions.